



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

September 29, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, AND
OTHER KEY OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: VA-JWOD Exhibit Hall

In support of VA's mission "to care for him who shall have borne the battle," the Department fully promotes activities that create jobs for those who are blind or severely disabled. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) program supports our veterans as JWOD provides employment for nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month, and to highlight the JWOD program, the Department is hosting a VA-JWOD exhibit hall. Twenty vendors representing National Industries for the Blind and NISH-affiliated JWOD agencies will display their supply and service capabilities. The exhibit will be held October 7 in VACO room C-7 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. I strongly encourage attendance at this event as well as other similar events throughout the year.

VA's recently developed electronic messaging system, "JWOD Means Jobs," has been in operation for a year. This system has given significant visibility to JWOD products and has been an excellent tool for VA acquisition professionals in procuring JWOD supplies and services.

VA is striving to improve all aspects of our procurement processes, leverage our purchasing power, and measure our effectiveness. JWOD is an integral part of our team, and we appreciate the value their products bring to the Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony J. Principi".

Anthony J. Principi